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# LODI HISTORIAN

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## LODI HIGH SCHOOL

*By Ralph Lea and Janice Roth*

The citizens of Lodi started planning for a high school in the early 1880's. A new Salem school was built in 1883 with a high school in mind. It was a magnificent school building. Despite the good intentions of the citizens it was 1890 before graduating students from the 9th grade. The next year an attempt was made to establish a high school in Lodi with the appointment of a teacher and the combining of Salem, Harmony Grove, Live Oak and Alpine school districts governed by a new school board. There was found to be a flaw in the law and the school was not opened. Three years later the high school question was again brought before the people of Lodi and resulted in the establishment of a high school which opened September 9, 1896 with Mr. A. T. Searle of Pomona College as principal. Classes were held in the upper floor of Salem School. The year

was successful and the voters of the district decided to continue the school. On August 23, 1897 the school re-opened with Mr. A. L. Cowell, former president of the San Joaquin Valley College in Woodbridge as principal and Mr. Frank B. Wooten, a Stanford graduate, as Vice-principal. After three weeks Cowell resigned to go to Yreka High School and Miss Clark, a U.C. graduate was selected as vice-principal and Wooten moved up to principal.

The school offered three years of Latin, English and History; two years of German, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

J. D. Huffman was president of the Board of Trustees, W. M. Mason, M.D. was clerk and James A.

Anderson was trustee for 1899. Within four years the high school had outgrown its space at Salem School. The Cary Brothers constructed a new two-story wood frame structure 68 X 70 feet for a cost of \$4300. It was located on the northwest corner of Church Street and Lodi Avenue



▲ The 1883 Salem School that became the first Lodi High School utilizing only the upstairs after 1896. Elementary school used the lower level.  
~ Everts Mills Photo



◀ Students at Lodi High School, 1905. The student marked with the X is Walter Boyd.  
~ Photo Courtesy of San Joaquin County Historical Society





▲ Lodi's first high school in 1900, at the northwest corner of Lodi Avenue and Church Street.

(then county road called Sargent). It was ready for use in the fall semester of 1900. The lower floor had a boy's playroom, girl's playroom, chemical laboratory, dark room, store and furnace room. Upstairs there were two classrooms 18 X 17 feet and a principals room 13 X 17 feet. A hat and cloak room was also provided for each classroom.

H. Florence Burkett was editor of the first Lodi High School Annual and J.F. Blakley was editor in 1900. An alumni Association was formed with Hilliard Welch, (class of 1898) elected as president. The first graduates were George Hench and Hilliard Welch who worked as a bookkeeper for Beckman's Store while Hench attended the University of the Pacific to prepare for the ministry.

A two-year commercial course was started in 1902 which was later increased to four years. By 1904 there were 10 students graduating in the commercial class and nine in the college class. The next year Leslie Brown was elected as Student Body President, Clara Lytle as Vice President and editor of the annual, Castle Gammon as Secretary and Douglass Newton as Treasurer.

W. H. Thompson was President of the Board of Trustees, C. M. Ferdun was clerk and Dr. Mason was Trustee.

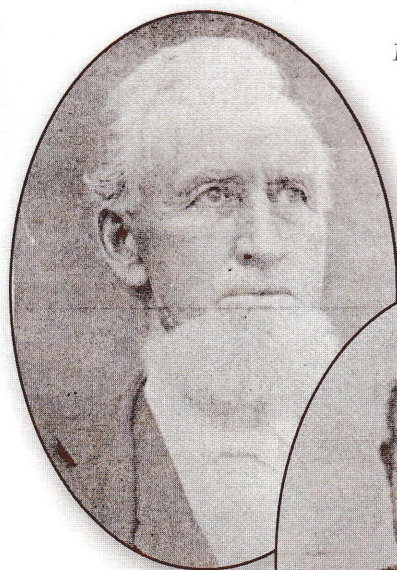
J.B. Wootten was Principal and Miss F.C. Stone was Vice Principal. Misses Lottie Faber and Jettora Watkins were teachers.

Sports and the arts played an important part of the students' education. In 1907 Lodi was playing schools of about their size. They traveled to Livermore and Ione. On May 16th the school boarded the train at 1:30 to go to Ione. Twenty-one students, fourteen team members plus officials all attended the game. In 1908 the school put on "The Merchant of Venice" at the opera house in Lodi.

The high school was accredited in ten subjects a gain of two over the past year.

There were now 42 students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades attending Lodi High School. The first year was called Junior, the second year middle and the third and last year senior.

1899 Lodi High  
School Board



J. D. Huffman,  
President of Board  
of Trustees



James A. Anderson  
School Trustee



W. M. Mason, M.D.  
Clerk of the Board





George M. Hench

First Lodi High graduates, 1898.



Hilliard E. Welch

The early annuals listed the graduates from previous years, often giving address, college, work place and name change in the case of marriage. For example the first two graduates, Welch and Hench were listed in the 1910 annual as Hilliard E. Welch a partner with Beckman and Thompson in Lodi and George H. Hench an attorney at Law in San Francisco. Eight of the 21 students who graduated in 1910 were attending college.

Ida Rinn, class of 1907, later graduated from the University of California and taught Spanish and German at Lodi High for many years. Another classmate was Everts Mills. He owned a good camera and took many pictures of school activities and pictures of the 1907 Tokay Carnival. Everts stayed in Lodi after college and was a farmer and leader in the fruit shipping and wine industries.

Thank goodness the move to form a union district became a reality. In April of 1911 the eight outlying school districts formed by petition the Lodi Union High School District. It was known for a few years that a new high school was needed. After an exciting campaign, an election for bonding the district for \$150,000.00 was passed. The Hutchins Street site in west Lodi was chosen for the building. The credit for the great



Lodi High School, 1903. ▲



▲ Lodi High School Class of 1899. Top row, l-r: Albert Carter, Erma Wood, Clay Smithson. Middle row, l-r: Jessie Comstock, Will Spooner, Florence Burkett. Front row, l-r: Ruby Steacy, Mamie Colman.



▲ Front row, l-r: Pearl Greenwell, Annie Steele, Nellie Page, Lenore Bauer, Gemma Chapdelain. Back row, l-r: Mabel Durston, Ethel Ritter, Leona Tarbell, and Ivy Steele.



success of the plans for the new high school goes to the trustees, E. E. Morse, F. B. Mills, N. W. Shidy, F. Perrott and W. S. Montgomery along with Mr. Inch the principal. The new high school was completed in 1913.

### *Lodi High School Graduating Class of 1900*



*Nellie Mason*



*Mamie Carlon*



*Leon Ogden*



*Mary Cope*



*Annie Mackenzie*



*John Blakley*



*Jessie Hale and Eva Beckman, Lodi High School class of 1902. ▲*



▲ *Lodi High Graduating Class, June 13, 1902. Top row, l-r: Ora Anderson, Harold Solkmore, Mary Rathburn, Mardie Anderson, Frank Wauchope, Amy Geoffroy. Bottom row, l-r: Jessie Green, Eva Beckman, Bertha Mason, and Charles Newton.*





▲ Lodi High School 1903 Baseball Team. Top row, l-r: Henry Daley, Manager Joe Priestley, Rolla Garretson. Middle row, l-r: Harry Wright, W. Gehan, John Keller. Bottom row, l-r: Will Priestley, George Tubbs, Elmer Colman and Chester Dutton.



▲ Lodi High School graduating class of 1903. Top row, l-r: Oline Nielis, Olive Byers, Hugh McKenzie, Myra Dunton, Lena Kane. Bottom row, l-r: William Gehan, Lottie Lemoine, Oliver Ambrose, Grace Gordon, and Nathan Barbour.



## Lodi High School Graduating Class of 1907



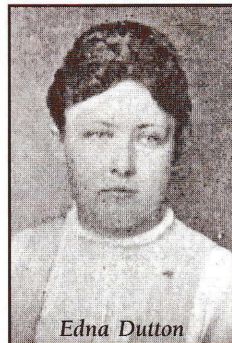
Bessie Shin



Everett Mills



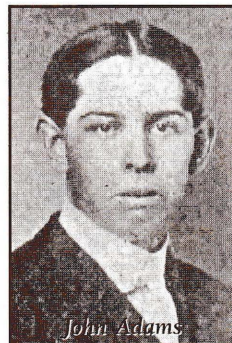
Raymond Gehan



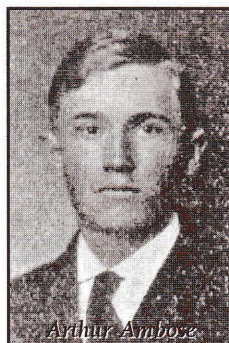
Edna Dutton



Hazel Jones



John Adams



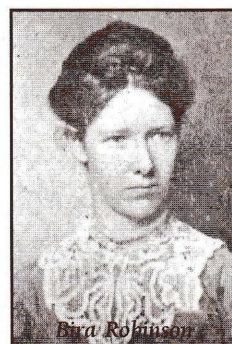
Arthur Ambrose



Ida Riney



Reuben Ferguson



Bira Robinson

It was the custom for students to write compositions for publication in the Annual. In the 1906 Tokay Annual Blanche Shadle wrote about the Lodi of 2006.

# Lodi in

**A**LMOST a century had passed since I had last seen Lodi, when, in 2006, I once more approached the town. But ah, me! the changes that had taken place astounded me; had I not had positive knowledge from my guide book (I suppose you know that I am furnished with one to prevent me losing my way in this progressive 21st century). I could never have believed it to be the same. At first I thought that perhaps I was mistaken, but no—it was worse than Cicero's exaggerations. As I gazed around me in utter perplexity, I was more confounded that I had ever been before in all my two thousand years of life. I was hopelessly stranded; London I had made my way thro' with comparative ease; in Paris there had been no obstacle, at Peking I had been a trifle puzzled, and now—.

Attracted by my strange garb and manner, a crowd collected; from it I hurriedly procured a guide who asserted that he could readily take me to all points of interest with no danger of losing my way. "Just step into my airship," he said, "while I procure a permit from the authorities to take you thro the city." "A permit!" I said in astonishment. "Why, yes," answered my guide gravely, "we cannot allow people of deranged minds to come and go at will." I was silent, dumfounded and quietly stepped into the waiting airship.

Airships, I have since learned, are now the common mode of conveyance for the lower classes. As to the wealthy, they seem to fly thro' the air without assistance, but my guide informed me that they use a very intricate flying machine, the model of which is a deep secret. As we sent sailing over the housetops, my quick eyes began to note more and still more new and interesting views. Over to the east, I saw steamers and barges, tugs and pilot boats in about the position the Mokelumne river had formerly occupied; but now no river was there. I would have exclaimed "San Francisco Bay," had not I suddenly remembered that Lodi used to be an inland town. I turned in perplexity to my companion and inquired what that body of water was and in what manner the town had so entirely changed. "Well, you must live somewhere where the news never penetrates. I suppose that most likely you never heard of the San Francisco disaster in 1906, never knew that its inhabitants emigrated to this place and that in a few years afterward the whole coast as far as Lodi sank, and that the waters of the Pacific are in front of us? Why, man, that is all ancient history and happened years before I was born." Silence intervened for a time but my curious remarks could not be long restrained.

Where were the people? Where were the drivers of the automobiles seen whirling themselves down the streets? Why were there no children hurrying by to school? These questions followed each other in quick succession from my lips. My guide at first merely stared at me in amazement, but as I persisted, he made an explanation, purposely choosing the more simple words and phrases in order that they might bring meaning to my disordered mind. From his account I gathered first that there were schools no longer, that teachers were banished on pain of death. "But how are the children taught?" I queried hopelessly. "Children taught," he echoed, "why, what do you mean? A person begins to learn when twenty years of age and finishes with all knowledge when forty. After that time, he has not much further use for any learning which he may accidentally have acquired for at the age of fifty he is electrocuted." I was half satisfied with this explanation, who, I must confess, considerably startled by it.

Later, tho, I did not then know it, I was to be shocked still more. Resuming his exposition, he said, "You surely do not expect to see automobiles managed by chauffeurs! That primitive fashion went out of date nearly eighty years ago. The owner simply winds the mechanism, designates the places at which it is to stop



Blanche Shadle



and goes back to finish his after-dinner nap. The auto follows directions carefully and does the entire work without additional supervision." "But are there never any collisions?"

ventured feebly. He looked startled. "Collisions! I have never heard the word," he sped out. I hastily endeavored to reassure him, feeling perfectly sure that I did not understand the state of affairs. Presently he went on: "As to the people not coming in sight—how many centuries have you been away, anyhow? Don't you know that everything in the shops and stores is operated by machinery, and that machines do the work of delivery? People are not obliged to do anything, so why should they get in the way of the machines?"

With a groan, I grimly acknowledged to myself that times had hopelessly changed, that my ideas were entirely out of date. Presently we passed over some beautiful buildings in which I saw splendid statues ranged around. To my inquiry as to whom they represented, he replied with a look of fear upon his countenance, "Those pieces of statuary represent a class of people, which tradition says formerly occupied this place. They were known as real estate agents and oppressed our ancestors, so much so that upon their deaths, our forefathers erected these remembrances to them. To these we go every five days with offering to appease the shades of these dieties and implore them never again to revisit the earth.

"But where have all the churches gone?" came from me in dismay. "Churches? I don't think I exactly catch your meaning." I forbore to question further.

I acquainted my companion with my desire of visiting a book store in order to get a few of the latest histories and study up current events. "Oh, I understand, you wish to get some history capsules at the druggist's!" he said with a brightening countenance.

"History capsules at the druggist's!" I cried. "Yes, if you want to get a knowledge of history. Don't you understand?" When a person wishes to learn history, Mathematics, English, in fact any subject, he takes the required number of capsules of knowledge, carefully assimilates the mixture and straightway understands it. "Are Greek and Latin studied in that way?" this delightedly from me. "Oh, no, they make far too powerful a dose. The strongest constitution cannot stand it. They are abolished by the Mayor fifty or sixty years ago."

We passed on. Everywhere were strange sights, strange sounds; I was bewildered. "How do the people pass their time? You say that the machines do all the work." "Well, once in every twenty years, the machines are given a day's vacation and we do their work. During the rest of the time we are very busy. We are counting the stars; I've gotten to the eleventh million one now. Also, we are trying to determine to the exact second, the date of the last great earthquake and conflagration." So this is Lodi, Lodi the glorious," and I could hardly refrain from repeating these lines and those immediately following:

"Yet this is Rome," that sat on her seven hills,  
And from her throne of beauty, rules the world."

I departed, for I had seen enough; too much, I think now. What is the world coming to? I do not know; but this I do know, that never more will the Wandering Jew leave the shores of Asia to go to forbidden lands; he will remain near the trackless wastes over which the sure-footed camel goes and by which the hyena prowls; he will at length lie down to his endless sleep in the land of his fathers, for the Western world may be very good, yet its charms do not tempt him.

"THE WANDERING JEW,"  
(Blanche Shadle, '07.)



▲ Lodi High School, corner of Lodi Avenue and Church Street.



▲ 1907; Girls high school basketball team: Back row, l-r: Teacher Gertrude McGraw, Glessie Martin, Nellie (Helen) Hurd, Frances Smith, Ethel Ritter. Middle row, l-r: Carrie Ousterhout, Lillian Widney, Carrie Pool, Erma Lucas, Bessie Shinn. Front row, l-r: Rosa Pool, Norma Stannard, Marion Fish and Iloe (Biscoe) Coleman.



▲ 1907; Lodi High School vs. Ione, boys basketball.





▲ Lodi High School, 1909. Physical Geography Class, Miss Bammann, teacher.

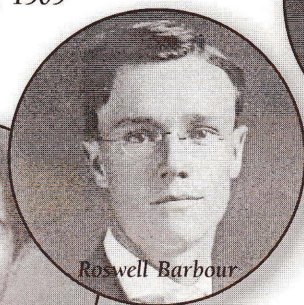
### Lodi High School Graduating Class of 1909



Marion Fish



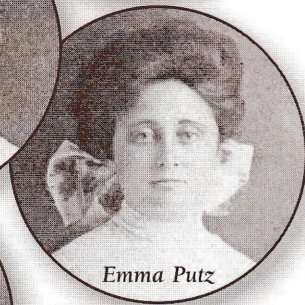
Elma Huffman



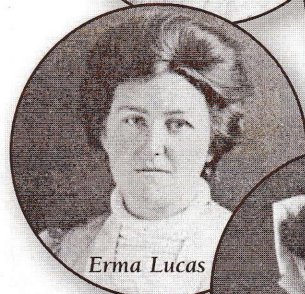
Roswell Barbour



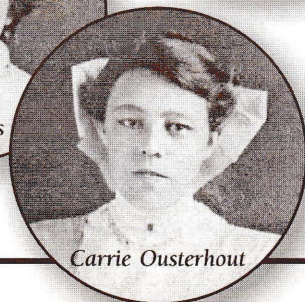
Ruth Siefkes



Emma Putz



Erma Lucas



Carrie Ousterhout



Edna McCollum



Lena McKenzie



1907 Boys  
basketball team.



1907 Girls  
basketball team.



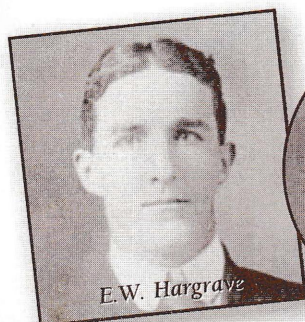


▲ 1910 Lodi High baseball team. Top row, l-r: Charlie Posey, Cullen Corson, Lester Wilson, Gordon Benedict, James Prentice. Bottom row, l-r: Lauren Wilkinson, Elbert Brown, Carl Moore (captain), Forrest Gum.



▲ 1910 Lodi High girls basketball team. Left to right: Carrie Ellis, Ethel Ritter (captain), Vera Coleman, Birdie Adams, Miss Colledge (coach), Hazel LeMoin, Mabel Durston, Norma Stannard, and Harriet Lovett.

### Lodi High School 1900 Faculty



E.W. Hargrave



Miss Emma Louis Bammann



Miss M. Gertrude McCaw  
President



Miss Belle Coledge



Miss Agnes McDougall



▲ Editorial staff of Lodi High School, 1910. Top row, l-r: Norma Stannard, Willard Robinson, Louis Newfield, Lucien Fisher, James Prentice, Mabel Durston. Front row, l-r: Bessie Merrill, Ivy Steele, Preston Sollars (Editor-in-Chief), Mary Wilson, and Gladys Walter.





▲ Lodi High School Senior Class of 1911. Top row, l-r: Mary Kurtz, Ivy Steele, Gladys Guggolz, Miss B. Cooledge, Ila Barton, Olga Lange, Hazel Tindell, Hazel LeMoin, Otto Konig, Harriett Lovett, Edith Bates, Hazel Cotton, Mark Wade, Carrie Poole. Bottom row, l-r: James M. Prentice, Cullen Corsen, Charles H. Posey, Ralph H. Lee, Charles A. Kelley, Willard J. Robinson, Edmund Durston, and Thurlow Hussey.

### 1911 Lodi High School California State Champion Basketball Team

James Prentice, C

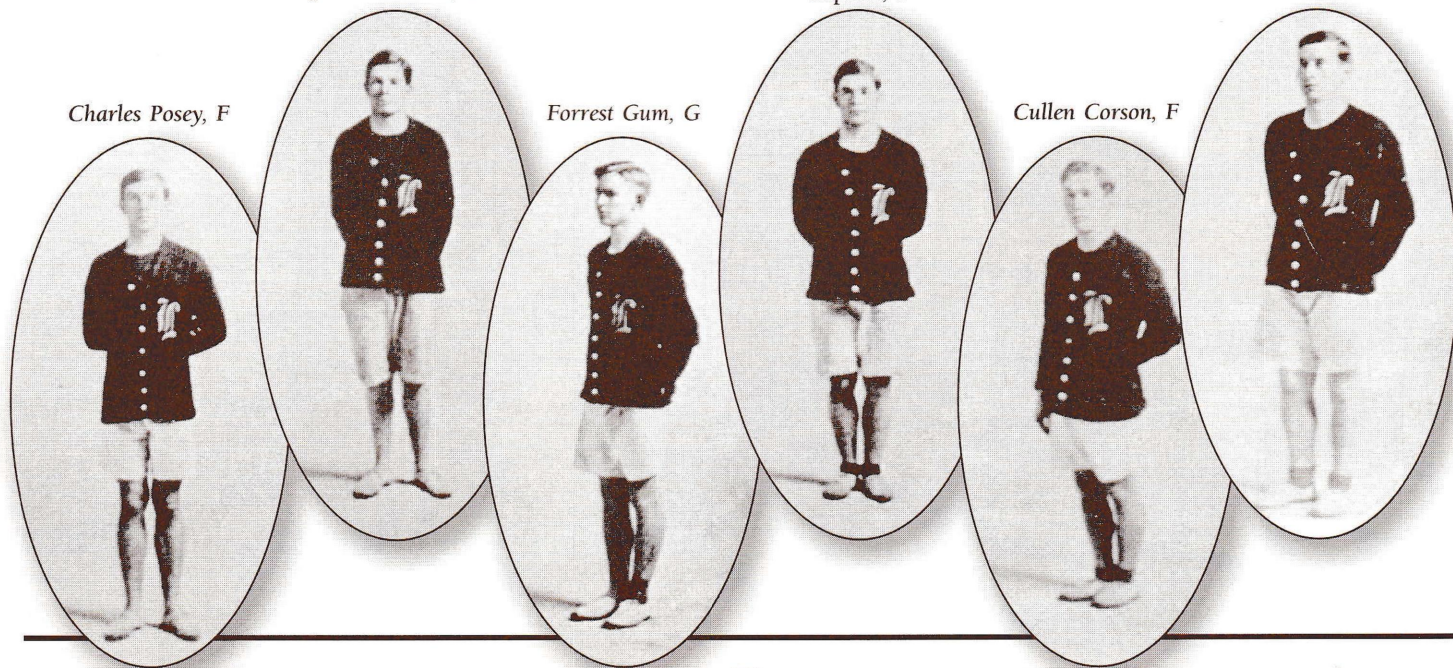
Lauren Wilkinson,  
Captain, F

Rex Benedict, F

Charles Posey, F

Forrest Gum, G

Cullen Corson, F



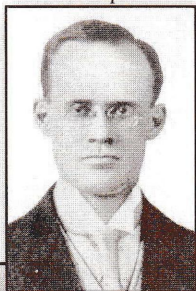




▲ 1911 Lodi High School Class Play. Left to right: Lena McKenzie, Charle Posey, Frances Wright, Joseph Boyd, Hazel Tindell, Harriet Lovett, Carrie Ellis, Willard Robinson, Ivy Steele, Hazel Cotton, Henry Rinn, Vera Coleman, and Albert Randolph.

### LODI HIGH SCHOOL 1912 FACULTY

Mr. William Inch,  
Principal



Miss Belle Coolidge  
Vice Principal



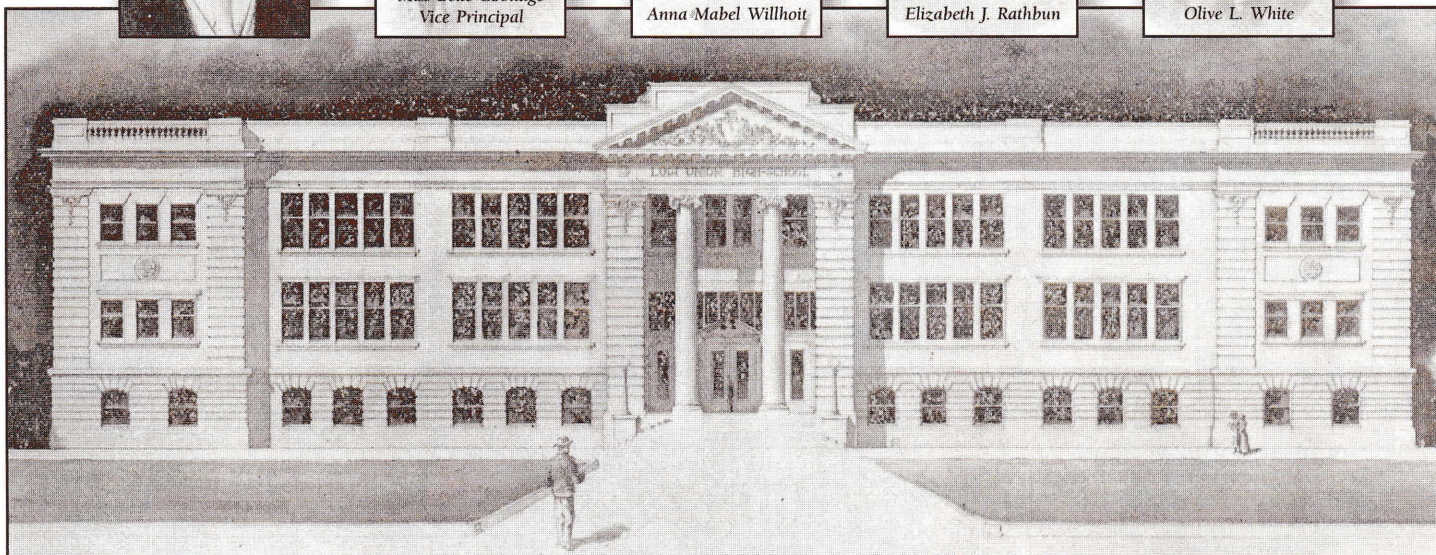
Anna Mabel Willhoit



Elizabeth J. Rathbun



Olive L. White



▲ The architect's drawing of the new high school to be built in 1912 was approved December 14, 1911.





▲ Lodi High School 1912; The cast of the senior play, "A Strenuous Life." Left to right: Henry Rinn, Leslie Johns, Clifford Mason, Ernest Folendorf, Leslie Roberts, Forrest Gum, Frances Wright, Genevieve Morse, Georgia Henderson, Carrie Ellis, Ernest Setzer, Dorothy Sargent and Will Peirano.

❦  
Thanks to Duncan Press  
for their help in layout and printing.

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Editor Ralph Lea

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▲ Lodi High School's cast of "The Pickwick Club," 1912. Left to right: Joe Boyd as Mr. Snodgrass, Harold Cary as Mr. Winkle, Albert Randolph as Mr. Tupman, and Clifford Mason as Mr. Pickwick. This production celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens, Wednesday, February 7th.